

# Results from Several Small Group Discussions Regarding the Roan Plateau Area of Western Colorado



**Prepared By:**

**Peter Williams  
Program Coordinator  
Collaboration Service Team  
USDA Forest Service**

**Submitted To:**

**Anne Huebner  
Field Office Manager  
Glenwood Springs Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management**

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Suggestions for Public Involvement

# Introduction and Background

This document describes results from a series of informal meetings conducted to help the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Glenwood Springs Field Office better understand the visions, values, and viewpoints of local residents regarding the Roan Plateau area in western Colorado. With this information, BLM personnel have a better sense of questions they might address as they develop new guidelines for managing the Roan Plateau area. Information gathered during the meetings will help BLM personnel better understand what the Roan Plateau area means to different people and why local residents believe the Roan Plateau is important.

New guidelines for managing Roan Plateau became necessary following Congress's November 1997 transfer of administrative and management responsibility for approximately 56,000 acres of Roan Plateau area lands from the Department of Energy to Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (see Public Law 105-85). Before the transfer, BLM had managed Roan Plateau surface lands under a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Energy (DOE). Today, because of the 1997 transfer, management activities affecting those public lands must follow laws and regulations which apply to the BLM instead of those that previously applied when the land was managed under DOE administrative authority.

BLM Field Offices publish local management guidelines in Resource Management Plans. Such plans are required under a 1976 federal law called the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 43 USC §§1701-84) in which Congress primarily defines BLM responsibilities and authority. Resource Management Plans (RMPs) guide and control future management actions within a specified area of BLM-managed public lands and must reflect consideration of reasonably foreseeable effects upon local economies and upon activities on adjacent or nearby lands, regardless of whether those lands are under federal, state, local, tribal, or private ownership.

Several other requirements of FLPMA are important to know. One is that BLM must evaluate all newly transferred lands to identify any portions with potential suitability for wilderness designation. BLM personnel have completed that work for the Roan Plateau area, with much assistance from citizens. Similarly, the BLM must identify all Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) where special management attention is required. That work will occur as part of the Roan Plateau planning process. And, during all BLM planning efforts, FLPMA requires that BLM personnel provide opportunities for meaningful public participation, following the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321-61) and its associated regulations (40 CFR 1500-8 and 43 CFR 1610.2). Glenwood Springs Field Office personnel take this responsibility seriously and are working to design a process responsive to ideas and suggestion offered by local residents and others involved with Roan Plateau area lands.

When Congress transferred management jurisdiction for the Roan Plateau to BLM, it also provided BLM with additional directions beyond those of FLPMA. For example, BLM had to lease certain lands, the previously developed tract below Roan Cliffs, for oil and gas within one year and offer the remaining land for leases as soon as practicable.

As a result of Congress's transfer of Roan Plateau area public lands to BLM management, the Glenwood Springs Field Office—the BLM unit with greatest management responsibility for that

area—must amend its Resource Management Plan (RMP). That work formally began in November 2000 and is scheduled to conclude in August 2002. The amendment process will reflect other planning work that has already occurred since the 1997 land transfer in response to FLPMA or language in the land transfer legislation. Examples of the preliminary planning work are the wilderness inventories, land health assessments, route inventories, and initial leases of oil and gas rights that occurred in 1999. This report also contributes to BLM's effort to build an early understanding of current conditions and viewpoints.

In the eventual RMP amendment, BLM personnel are likely to address wilderness suitability, possible special area designations, additional oil and gas leasing options, and travel management. They also will address issues or concerns raised by citizens, organizations, corporations, state agencies, other federal agencies, and Native American tribes during the planning process. As generally required under FLPMA (43 CFR 1601.0-5(k)), other products from the planning work will likely include some or all of the following items:

- Resource condition goals and objectives towards which BLM personnel will direct management activities,
- Identification of allowable activities and levels of production,
- Description of anticipated management activities as well as anticipated program constraints,
- Areas where more specific plans remain necessary,
- Sequence of implementation activities, and
- Identification of resource condition indicators and associated standards of desirable condition that will apply as the BLM monitors and evaluates effectiveness of the plan.

## The Roan Plateau

Roan Plateau refers to a geologic uplift extending from north of Parachute, Colorado, to north of Rifle, Colorado, although some local residents also consider the Roan Plateau to extend west as far as the state border with Utah. The Roan Plateau area, for the purposes of this BLM planning effort, extends west from State Highway 13, north from the Colorado River, east from Parachute Creek, and south from the Rio-Banco County line with Garfield County, all within the state boundaries of Colorado. The uplands form the actual Roan Plateau and the remaining land is the balance of the Roan Plateau area.

Not all land within the planning area is public land managed by the BLM. Some of the non-public land is privately owned and some is corporately owned. Some of the land within the planning area is publicly owned by the State of Colorado or various towns such as Rifle and Parachute. The BLM planning area includes these lands only out of recognition that BLM planning decisions may affect these lands and the activities that occur there, as well as possibly being affected by activities on those neighboring lands.

The Roan Plateau is bordered by steep, at times vertical cliffs on its south and east sides (see Figure 1). Below those cliffs are talus fields tapering to flatter rangelands marked by visible oil and gas wells, Off-Highway-Vehicle riding areas, and steep-walled stream channels with pockets

of dense vegetation and open ground. Above the cliffs are grasslands and woodlands, rolling terrain, running streams, and meandering roadways marked by grazing cattle during parts of the summer, hunters during the fall, snowmobiling in the winter, and wildflowers during the spring.

As the discussions documented in this report indicate, the Roan Plateau area is a special area for many local residents for



*Figure 1 Roan Cliffs seen from the southeast, near Rifle, Colorado.*

reasons that range from oil and gas reserves to recreation to solitude to wildlife habitat. It serves as a water catchment for several local communities and sits atop what is likely one of the world's largest known natural gas and oil-shale formations. A 1995 survey conducted for Department of Energy revealed over 100 sites with notable cultural, historical, and paleontological materials (Reed and Horn 1995). A brief history of grazing in the area is on file at Glenwood Springs Field Office (Kinser 1998). Based on sources cited in that report, Native Americans of the Ute Indian Tribe raised horses on Roan Plateau prior to European settlement, a practice which led to the Roan Plateau name. Remnants of that herd provided horses for early settlers who worked to improve bloodlines and harvested stock each fall for sale. Grazing of sheep and cattle began prior to 1882 and early roads date from at least the mid-1880's. Today, the Roan Plateau area remains important to local residents, visitors, wildlife, fish, and many plants. Higher elevations offer escape from heat in summer; lower ones offer escape from snow and cold in winter.

## **A Community Sharing Interest in Roan Plateau**

Public lands have neighbors and friends and those in the Roan Plateau area are no different. The Glenwood Springs Field Office is committed to conducting their land planning and management activities in a collaborative manner, working with immediate neighbors and distant friends alike, each of whom belong to a community defined by common interest in the Roan Plateau area. A community approach to planning and management, in which the BLM is an integral part, can help ensure that the BLM's eventual planning decisions reflect a good understanding of the Roan Plateau area, of the community sharing common interest in it, and of opportunities for continuing to work together as stewards of Roan Plateau.

This community of shared interest can help BLM personnel understand current conditions from different perspectives and identify unrealized opportunities. Glenwood Springs Field Office will involve community members early and often during its planning work so as to contribute towards building greater trust and understanding with and among community members. BLM personnel look to learn from community members while sharing what they know. Community members, by engaging in this planning effort, can explore differences and discover untapped common ground.

The Glenwood Springs Field Office believes that, by involving local community members, they can build a future for the Roan Plateau area that is responsive to community values and viewpoints while being workable for BLM personnel who have responsibility for administering those public lands. Their goal is to develop a partnership capable of realizing a shared vision. The small group discussions documented in this material are part of this effort.

## How the Small Group Discussions Occurred

During the first week of October 2000, five small meetings occurred which began the work of ensuring that the RMP amendment process reflects a good understanding of how different people think about the Roan Plateau area. These first meetings focused primarily on local residents or those who have local business operations. One meeting was with BLM personnel at the Glenwood Springs Field Office; four meetings were with a diverse group of mostly local residents.

Results from these meetings provide early information for agency planning that, over the full course of Glenwood Springs Field Office's planning effort, can be further explored, corroborated or revised based upon additional information informing the process. These results can help the BLM more clearly describe why the planning effort is needed and the purpose it will address. They also can help the BLM ensure that their planning effort includes a Public Participation process responsive to local residents.

The folks who participated in the meetings had expressed their willingness in response to an initial invitation sent several weeks earlier to 230 individuals with a likely interest in Roan Plateau. The BLM knew of the likely interest because each person initially contacted had either previously participated in at least one of several local planning efforts or currently graze cattle on public lands under an established grazing permit or operate an oil and gas lease on local public lands or were suggested to BLM personnel as a possibly interested party.

Each discussion session meeting followed a listening session approach, as opposed to that of a formal focus group. Comments captured during the listening session reflected individual points made during the group's conversation without emphasizing the person making the point. No effort has been made to treat the comments as though they came from a representative sample of community members.

More than anything, these early comments help reveal the questions that the BLM must address during its planning effort. During upcoming public meetings and during their own planning efforts, BLM personnel can share comments they have heard and ask for additional comments, questions, and ideas. They can also prepare materials, such as maps or inventories, that are responsive to questions they know people are asking.

The primary meeting purpose, as explained during the introduction of each session, was to encourage participants to help BLM personnel better understand the visions, values, and viewpoints of local residents in preparation for the upcoming RMP Amendment process for Glenwood Springs Field Office.

During each meeting, the meeting facilitator had four tasks:

- 1) Introduce initial discussion topics,
- 2) Invite meeting participants to suggest additional topics,



- 3) Ask clarifying questions during the discussion, and
- 4) Capture, with assistance of participants, key points raised during the meetings.

With this document, the meeting facilitator is providing Glenwood Springs Field Office staff members with comments captured on flipcharts during the meetings so they can, as appropriate, consider and incorporate this information into their planning effort. The comments recorded at each meeting are shown in the Appendix as written.

## How the Information Helps

The initial community assessment described in this document is only one part of an effort to ensure that future BLM management decisions reflect a good understanding of the community of interest's concerns, whether raised by local neighbors or distant friends. Together with information from additional sources, community members can help the BLM amend the Glenwood Springs Field Office Resource Management Plan based upon shared understanding and ideas most likely to produce desirable outcomes.

Information documented in this report is not the BLM's sole source for understanding how local residents think about the Roan Plateau. It is, however, an important starting point for an ongoing discussion about the area. As part of the BLM's public planning effort, they will share the ideas and comments heard during the initial discussion sessions, ask for additional ideas and comments, and share information they have about the Roan Plateau area.



## Summary of Results

The following results are arranged by topic according to the general sequence that each discussion followed. Each section first describes associated questions used to guide the discussion and the range of comments offered by the participants. At the close of each meeting, participants were asked to indicate the most important points to come out of the evening's discussion. Each person was provided five colored stickers—two of which were red and counted as two stickers—and asked to place the stickers next to those comments they would most like the BLM to hear.

### Importance of Roan Plateau to Participants

The opening question during each meeting was, "What about Roan Plateau is important enough for you to be here tonight?" After each participant had an opportunity to respond to this initial question, a second follow-up question, which varied by evening, generally asked how each person sees Roan Plateau as a part of "home".

Most participants described Roan Plateau as a particularly special place for a variety of reasons. One person said, "Roan Plateau is a jewel". As another person said, "Roan Plateau is a lifestyle, not a livelihood". Several participants also mentioned the ecological importance of the area to wildlife, fish, and vegetation, as well as its role supplying water resources and forage reserves. Several comments mentioned a desire to have grandchildren able to see and enjoy the area.

For some participants, the area's importance was related to livelihoods. Several comments mentioned personal livelihoods, especially related to grazing activities and associated with personal investment in fences and spring development and maintenance mentioned by participants. Other comments addressed corporate livelihoods, especially related to oil and gas operations, although adjacent hardrock mining operations were also mentioned several times. And still other comments related to the role of Roan Plateau in the local economy, especially during hunting seasons when visitors buy hunting equipment and supplies.

The issue of wilderness inventory and designation was the principal reason several participants attended the meetings. At each evening, several participants mentioned concern about the effect of possible wilderness designation, as well as concern about the possible consequences of not finding an appropriately protective designation in anticipation of expected regional population growth. One person said the main reason to attend the meeting was, "concern about anything other than cliffs being designated wilderness." Another person put it more bluntly by saying, "(I'm) deadset against wilderness as an option." Alternatively, one participant explained, "(I'm here to) advocate for wilderness and clear up misinformation."

Another point raised by participants was ecological or land health. Comments included concern that Roan Plateau is "at risk at (an) ecological level" and is a "large block of land encompassing a whole ecosystem process and range (which is) very rare." An associated comment was that "fragmentation of habitat" must be avoided and that roads contribute to fragmentation. Comments about ecological health also included ones about the significance of the area for wildlife, seen by several participants as a key reason for Roan Plateau's importance.

Several participants attended the meetings because of concerns about access and recreational activities. Several comments suggest that ATV's are seen as a growing nuisance and source of damage when improperly used. On the other hand, several comments expressed an interest in retaining access for all activities and accommodating new activities without compromising traditional ones. Generally such comments were associated with other ones about the importance of "multiple-use". The exact meaning of multiple-use varied implicitly among participants, a point revisited in this document's closing section. Another comment often associated with ones about multiple-use and access expressed a fear of "locking up public lands." Several participants mentioned specific recreational activities as their reason for attending the meeting. Hunting came up numerous times as an important opportunity available on Roan Plateau, as did sightseeing, fishing, birding, and other activities.

Several participants mentioned that they see the Roan Plateau as important because it is an area where people largely get along. One person commented that, "everyone coexists with multiple-use and no fighting."

Roan Plateau was also mentioned as a paleontological and archeological resource because of the fossil beds and signs of ancient human history found in the area. An associated concern was the possible disturbance of that resource through any number of possible contemporary or future activities, such as oil and gas exploration or recovery, grazing, OHV/ATV traffic, or catastrophic fire.

## Biggest Challenges Seen by BLM personnel

The meeting with BLM personnel from the Glenwood Springs Field Office began with a different question intended to get at the managerial significance of the area. The opening question was, "What do you see as the biggest challenge affecting management efforts on Roan Plateau?" The follow-up question was, "What do you anticipate as the greatest future challenges?"

The biggest challenge seen by BLM personnel was what they described as "hidden agendas", both internal and external. The impression mentioned was that the planning process is open to manipulation by those who are unwilling to openly discuss their agenda(s) regarding Roan Plateau or public land management generally.

The second greatest challenge, from the BLM perspective, is travel management. Several persons described the difficulty of "figuring out what people want", meaning the type of activity, opportunities, and experiences. Similarly, figuring out management options and discussing them with citizens during the planning effort is seen as a challenge. Several comments addressed the possibility of concentrating OHV/ATV tracks and routes so as to reduce the effect on winter range.

Conflicts between neighbors (specifically those pursuing "traditional uses") and regional interests (seen as "non-traditional") was mentioned as another significant challenge. A related comment expressed concern about "how to make everyone happy" given the conflicts. A conflict that seemed especially difficult is in the area off of the plateau where intense OHV/ATV activity occurs in areas seen as crucial winter habitat for deer and sheep.

Several comments were related to the challenge of differences within the Roan Plateau area. Areas off of the plateau are seen as distinct from the plateau itself and as having more serious

problems, such as garbage dumping and intense OHV/ATV activities. The upper plateau, on the other hand, is seen as being in pretty good condition that should be retained.

Another challenge mentioned by BLM personnel was maintaining or improving wildlife habitat and fish habitat. A related comment addressed the interest in managing the landscape for long-term health, described as meaning good range conditions and largely natural-appearing conditions. There was some discussion about natural and natural-appearing, seen as distinctly different.

A major future challenge anticipated by BLM personnel is population growth and tourism growth in the surrounding area of Roan Plateau. They mentioned the projections in population and in diversity within that growing population. Specific comments mentioned that the future population in the Roan Plateau area is likely to have different, more diverse values, different expectations, and less association with and understanding of what are considered traditional activities such as ranching and oil and gas development.

Several BLM personnel made comments about specific management challenges related to the eventual planning document. There was general interest in finding a way, through this planning process, to provide clear management direction and "obtainable management objectives" to future land managers. Some comments addressed the need for enforceable and "implementable" management decisions that are workable and not overly burdensome on either BLM personnel or visitors. Other comments addressed the need for clear monitoring indicators so managers and others can tell whether there is stability in management direction, meaning they can tell whether conditions are getting better or worse and management efforts are accomplishing what is intended.

Similarly, several BLM personnel made comments about implementation. One comment, embraced by most other BLM personnel at the meeting, expressed interest in encouraging "community buy-in" to the eventual decision, largely because BLM personnel see the community as having many potential partners for implementation. This comment was associated with other ones expressing a concern about having the money and personnel to implement the eventual decision. Several BLM personnel mentioned a future challenge of addressing unanticipated changes in management direction.

One distinct set of comments addressed the atmosphere and politics that have followed the White River National Forest Planning effort. The BLM personnel who attended the meeting suggested they would like to find a way to conduct their planning work that is much more to build community interest and support in both the process and the eventual outcome.

## Future Challenges Seen by Non-BLM Meeting Participants

Anticipation of future conditions is an important part of planning, especially those conditions that could pose challenges. These initial discussions begin the process of considering possible future challenges. Several comments addressed challenging conditions; other ones addressed challenging decisions likely necessary. One challenge widely seen as important was accommodating increasing activities without losing traditional ones. Increasing activities, based upon the followup discussion, meant both new activities (meaning increased diversity of activities) as well as increasing numbers of new participants engaging in existing activities.

Challenges related to resource management included weed control and oil and gas development. Several participants mentioned that weed control would be an ongoing and increasing problem. A related challenge mentioned was the increase in ORV/ATV activities that has occurred in recent years and was seen as expected to continue.

Several anticipated challenges addressed questions related to management. One challenge mentioned was building community support for volunteer activities. As one person put it, “get people involved in taking care of what’s theirs”. Another challenge, mentioned in several meetings and seen as quite important for the BLM to note, was described as “constant change in BLM managers and management”. Comments suggest that some people believe BLM judgements have become based upon low familiarity. Another challenge addressed the public involvement effort, suggesting the difficulty of effectively using it to identify what the community wants in the long-term. Several comments reflected the challenge of establishing appropriate management designations, such as wilderness and other special area designations.

Another set of comments about future challenges addressed both the eventual RMP amendment and the changes seen as occurring in the local area. One person expressed hope that the eventual plan would “keep the feeling that this is still ‘my home’”. Another addressed changes in the valley and the need to pay attention to the “big picture”. Several people said they see new residents seen as source of particular problems because of an unfamiliarity with cattle or oil fuels.

## Characteristics Most Important to Avoid Changing

When preparing for a management decision about an area like Roan Plateau, it helps to find out which characteristics of the area are seen as contributing to the area’s importance. The characteristic most frequently mentioned was the area’s remoteness and lack of crowding, most often associated with the existing limited access which is seen as important to retain. Similar comments referred to the area’s quietness.

A related set of comments mentioned access as a characteristic central to Roan Plateau, particularly access to (1) energy resource, (3) forage reserve, and (3) recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, recreational driving, and other activities. The preferred access was on rough roads, seen as important to keeping the area from becoming too crowded.

Other crucial characteristics of the setting mentioned included paleontological resource(s) and archeological resources, including wikeups. Several comments expressed the importance of ecological characteristics, including the relatively large and intact ecosystem. As one person said, “land health is key and we need this in the future too.” Current biological resources, especially rare ones and endangered ones, vegetation, soil, riparian areas that support wildlife as a critical habitat. Several comments mentioned the importance of natural processes, such as fire, as crucial to keep the ecosystem healthy. Much of the associated discussion reflected an understanding that many natural processes are somewhat dependent upon management actions and decisions to not attempt to control those processes. Similarly, several people were quick to mention that the weed invasion—a process with many natural characteristics—needed management actions to control it. Another characteristic of Roan Plateau mentioned frequently was water quality.

Several comments addressed management activities as important characteristics of the area. Weed control was a frequently mentioned example of an important activity to continue. Some comments suggested that control of sagebrush was also important because it is seen as intrusive on forage reserve, although other comments mentioned the importance of sagebrush as wildlife habitat. Another management activity mentioned frequently was multiple-use strategy for management which is typically associated with continuity of current and previous management principles. Several comments mentioned that erosion control is an important management activity crucial to the overall quality of Roan Plateau.

## Benefits Associated with Roan Plateau area lands

One way of understanding the importance of an area's characteristics is to ask about the benefits seen as associated with the area. Benefits are the desired outcomes of going to an area or of managing it in a certain way. They are the "what people want" or "what people get" from an area. Benefits include immediate ones, such as experiences, and secondary ones, such as emotions like community pride or environmental awareness. Most perceived benefits captured during these discussions are reflected in comments throughout this document. There are, however, several distinct ones:

- Good grazing and forage reserve, which leads to weight gain;
- Extractable natural resources, such as oil, shale, timber, water, and natural gas, which contribute to the local and national economies;
- Remoteness and the lack of crowding, which allow for certain experiences not available when there are many other people around;
- Recreational opportunities, such as fishing, hiking, hunting, birding, camping, biking, OHV/ATV riding, which also allow for certain experiences;
- Wildlife habitat, which allows for birdwatching, hunting, and healthy wildlife populations;
- Quality water, which contributes to quality of life in local communities and healthy fish and wildlife;
- Challenge, which is often associated with rough and rustic roads.

These discussions did not provide an opportunity for sufficient exploration of the question of benefits. For example, a person participates in a recreation activity as a way to pursue benefits beyond the immediate activity, such as thrill or challenge or fitness. Similarly, remoteness provides opportunities for benefits, but is generally a characteristic of the area. Additional discussion of benefits would help this planning effort.

## What do these "Benefits" depend upon?

Another important part of understanding benefits is understanding what those benefits might depend upon. For example, one person concerned about oil and gas resource recovery occurring with greatest possible conservation of biological resources suggested that this depends upon adopting the most technologically advanced recovery methods. Similarly, access that does not lead to poor soil or water conditions is dependent upon rough roads and management of ORVs/ATVs. Weight gain of cattle and healthy wildlife are dependent upon a

healthy forage reserve and lack-of-crowding. Several comments suggested that, therefore, the forage reserve benefits depend upon relatively uncrowded conditions during those times when weight gain is most important. Related comments suggested that remoteness and lack of crowding are dependent upon limited access and limited knowledge of the area.

Other comments suggested that good water quality, soil conditions, and safe recreation depend upon road maintenance, such as repairing washouts, maintaining waterbars and drainages, and using dips and not culverts (culverts can clog up and blow out in flooding rains). But, road maintenance, according to those who encouraged it, need not mean losing the experience of rustic roads. Most comments about rustic roads included encouragement for the BLM to not control dust or make the roads too easy to drive or drive fast.

Several participants brought up other management activities, while pointing out that the BLM could benefit from the assistance and thoughtfulness of others. For example, one person mentioned trash removal or proper disposal of trash, including carcasses, as a management activity that would contribute to the Roan Plateau area's quality. Several people mentioned fire management as a management activity contributing to benefits. Specific comments referred to proper use of fire as a management tool which was seen as a way to help vegetation thrive, improve grazing and wildlife forage, provide good bear habitat and keep them from moving to town, and killing some weeds which saves tax money that would otherwise be spent on fighting them. Similarly, several people mentioned managing timber and forests to avoid catastrophic fire, seen as threat to wildlife habitat and aesthetics such as views and forest variety.

## Characteristics Most Important to Consider Changing

Participants in the discussions also described characteristics of the Roan Plateau area that seem most worth changing because they detract from the area or from the benefits. Several comments suggested that careful improvement of road system could occur by installing loop opportunities which would provide loop opportunities and allow for less dense recreation because drivers wouldn't have to double-back.

Several participants mentioned a perceived trend as a characteristic most important to consider changing. One was the perceived trend towards greater risk to riparian areas. Another was the perceived trend towards expansion of road system as undesignated roads develop. A related trend was towards increasing OHV/ATV associated problems. Several comments mentioned concern about weeds.

A number of comments mentioned BLM management and community relationships. Several participants mentioned a perceived trend towards more conflict and less constructive interaction with community. One person said the BLM and community are "not on same page"; another person said, "(decisions are) out of the hands of managers and in hands of bureaucrats". Several participants described a "discontinuity of management". Others complained about perceived subjectiveness of studies and unnecessary delays associated with bureaucracy, with the specific example of the time necessary for permits and environmental compliance processes such as Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement's (SEIS's) and Environmental Assessment's (EA's).



Other comments addressed BLM management activities. One comment mentioned the perceived possibility of oil and gas leases leading to surface occupancy of areas considered as possible Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Several comments expressed concern that BLM management activities were not letting natural processes proceed, including fire. One person encouraged the BLM to “deal with decadent and late-seral vegetation” so as to prevent catastrophic fire and improve forage opportunities for cattle and wildlife.



# Ideas and Suggestions for Public Participation in Planning Process

Many of the most immediately valuable comments made during the discussions addressed the BLM's upcoming planning process. The following material is arranged within broad headings and presents the comments as written during the meetings.

## **Education Is Important So More People Have a Better Understanding:**

- Use Better Maps Showing All Activities and Infrastructure, Including Fences, Gas Wells, Roads, Routes, Etc.
- Don't Forget about Human History: Make it Part of the Discussion of Ecological Trends, Population Trends, Demographic Changes
- Differentiate Between Perceptions and Fact: History Is an Example, as Are the Various Understandings of "Roan Plateau"
- Provide Educational Information: Describe the Actual Effects of Wilderness Designation and Be Clear about the "Fine Print" of Different Management Options.

## **Process and Methods Are Important**

- Start by Presenting What Is Known, Not What Is Proposed.
- Focus on the Issues: Consider Meeting to Discuss Particular Topics or Areas.
- Don't Lie, Mislead, or Misrepresent.
- Use Webpages
- Identify and Address Rumors Quickly: BLM must Have a Response.
- Relying Only on Large Public Meetings Is Counterproductive (Similarly, Small Meetings Were Encouraged in Several Comments)
- Use a Mixture of Meeting Types, Including Informational Meetings as Well as Smaller Working Groups.
- Remember That Not Everyone Is Comfortable at Public Meetings, So Make Good Use of Written Public Comment Too.
- Consider Meetings and Discussion Sessions Hosted by Non-BLM Groups, Such as Colorado Environmental Coalition, Local Organizations and Representatives
- Work with Local Groups and Representatives So They Can Help Spread the Word about What's Happening and Look for Good Questions and Ideas, as Well as Sharing Ideas and Information. [Note: This Addresses the BLM Question about Where Most People Get Their Information]
- Provide Opportunities for People to Hear from Each Other First Hand: "Encourage Enough Interactions Between Different Parts of the Community to Come to a Consensus or Compromise about What Needs to Be Done."
- Avoid Weekly or Bi-weekly Meetings: Arrange Meetings to Reflect the Activity Level.
- Make Use of Field Visits and Site Visits: Let People See the Areas under Discussion and Talk about the Issues When They Are Right in Front of Everyone Instead of Only Abstractions
- "When BLM Gets to Alternatives, Provide Ground-oriented Fact Sheets Oriented Towards What People Actually Do"

**Cautionary Comments to Consider:**

- Stay Away from Too Much “Pride in Authorship” and “Thinking the Agency Has All the Answers”, and Any Appearance of “Behind the Scenes” Work
- BLM Needs to Find Ways to Show a Commitment to Making a Difference
- Keep the Process Open

**What Would You like to Encourage the BLM to Do During Their Public Involvement Process?**

- Establish “Buy-in” and Pride of Joint-authorship,
- Work with Dow to Access Database of Hunters Using Unit 32
- Get People Involved Early and Thoroughly (Focused on Encouraging Understanding and Compromises), Explain the Process and Pitfalls, Use Common Sense, Do Good Analysis of Off-site and Cumulative Effects
- Aim Towards Ownership, Meaning Stewardship Towards Ground and Towards Decision

**What Would a Successful Public Involvement Process Look like to BLM Personnel?**

- “Sideboards” of Policy and Law Are Well Communicated
- Buy-in and Acceptance Is More Broad.
- Process Is Not Unreasonably Burdensome to Staff Members or the Public.
- Broader Part of the Community Is Engaged in the Process than Is Traditionally Reached.
- People Know They Have Opportunities to Participate.
- Clear Communication Quickly Addresses Misinformation and Rumors: Specific Reference to Letters to the Editor and Other Comments Published in Newspapers That Deserve a BLM Response
- Coherent Strategy Is Applied for Working with Other Agencies and city/county government.

## Questions for Consideration

Based upon the comments and concerns raised during these discussions, a number of questions appear worth consideration. These are suggested only as a starting point. While they build upon the discussion, they must also be built upon.

- How will the planning process, especially the public involvement effort, avoid manipulation by those perceived as having “hidden agendas”?

Concern about hidden agendas was mentioned at every meeting, whether implicitly or explicitly. Such concerns are often associated with fear that the process is inequitable, unfair, or rigged in such a way as to disadvantage certain people or minimize specific issues. Building a process that addresses these fears is crucial to how the eventual management decision and RMP amendment is received by those involved with the Roan Plateau. The concern is not about agendas per se; it is about hidden ones.

- What is meant by “multiple-use” when the term is used by BLM personnel or, alternatively, by non-BLM personnel and citizens?

Multiple-use has specific meaning within BLM regulations. That meaning appears to be different from what is meant by some participants in these discussions. It may be helpful to share the FLPMA definition of multiple-use and ask whether this agrees with other understandings. Also, because multiple-use comes in different flavors, a related question to consider addressing during the planning process is, “what are the possible consequences of particular approaches to multiple-use and do they lead to the Roan Plateau area wanted in the future?”

- What are the current conditions in the Roan Plateau area and what do those conditions mean ecologically, socially, culturally, and economically?

There is a difference between “current condition” and “what that condition means”. For some people, the presence of sagebrush, for example, might indicate ecological health because it serves as habitat, but for others it might mean economic concern because it means less forage. Working to document current conditions, as well as the known relationships between various environmental components, can lay the foundation for a constructive dialogue about what the conditions mean.

- What is not known that would be helpful to know?

There is a difference between “what is not known” and “what would be helpful to know”. More often than not, what is helpful to know is only a small part of the vast amount of information that is not known. Deciding which is which, though, is not easy. It is common, early in a planning process, to not have all the information one would like to have. Similarly, it is common to end up collecting far more information than is necessary. Asking the previous question and sharing the often-changing answer during public meetings can help build interest and trust in the planning process. It is a most crucial part of “scoping” during a NEPA planning

process. Non-BLM personnel can help raise questions about both what is not known and what would be helpful to know. They can help focus on information most likely to be applicable.

- What are the projections for population growth and for diversity within that growing population?

Colorado's western slope region has experienced remarkable growth in the past decade. That growth is expected to continue, but the details of the growth projections are not widely known. Future conditions in the Roan Plateau area, both on and off public lands, are dependent upon the growth. It is likely that traditional, long-time residents will become a smaller percentage of the overall population. As a result, attitudes towards Roan Plateau are likely to be more varied than they have been. Anticipating the growth and some reasonably foreseeable consequences is essential.

- What recognized tribal interests apply to the Roan Plateau?

Public participation activities are distinct from consultation with state, local, or tribal governments. Consultation with tribal governments is as important as any planning activity. The Roan Plateau's history includes significant tribal presence, some of which may have resulted in culturally significant archeological materials. The public participation work can benefit from appropriate interaction with tribal members; the RMP amendment process can benefit from appropriate interaction with tribal governments.

- How do the perceptions described in this document—and indicative of opinions present among local residents—compare with information from other sources?

Many of the comments described in this document are quite factual, but not every comment is supported by additional evidence. It is important to verify information from all sources and carefully explain when information agrees and when it conflicts. When reading the comments captured on the flipcharts, look for underlying questions. If someone says, "this is the history", one underlying question is, "what is the history and are there multiple versions?" If someone says, "need to focus on multiple-use", an underlying question might be, "what is multiple-use?" or "how does wilderness fit into multiple-use?" or "what are the consequences of multiple-use?"

## Literature Cited

- Kinser, M. (1998). Grazing History of Roan Cliffs: An Internal Report. Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Glenwood Springs Field Office, Bureau of Land Management: 9.
- Reed, A. D. and J. C. Horn (1995). Report of the 1995 Cultural Resource Inventory of Navol Oil Shale Reserve Lands: Garfield County, Colorado. Montrose, Colorado, Alpine Archeological Associates, Inc.: 100.





## **Appendix**

### **Transcripts of Flipchart Text Compiled During Small Group Discussions Regarding Roan Plateau**

October 3 – October 6, 2000



## Discussion Session Background Information

**Meeting Locations:** Glenwood Springs Field Office, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.  
Discussion Meetings held in the towns of Rifle and Parachute, Colorado.

**Meeting Dates:** October 3-6, 2000

**Meeting Facilitator:** Peter Williams,  
Collaboration Service Team, USDA Forest Service

**Flipchart format:** Two flipchart pages are shown on each printed page that follows. The top line of each flipchart page shows the date and location of the meeting.

Each flipchart page generally has a single discussion question at the top. The only exceptions occurred during the meeting with BLM personnel. On all flipchart sheets, major bullets indicate key points raised by meeting participants. Secondary bullets indicate subsequent points raised by the same person who made the original comment so as to clarify his or her key point.

This is the exact text of notes taken at each meeting and provides the basis for this report. The only exceptions are expanded names of acronyms used during meetings and occasional collapsing text from two flipchart pages into one if the discussion question is the same for each. For example, CEC was used as an acronym in several meetings and generally appears in the flipchart transcripts as "CEC (Colorado Environmental Coalition)".



## 10/3: Glenwood Springs Field Office

### General Thoughts Regarding Roan Plateau

#### Biggest Challenges

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Conflicts between neighbors (i.e., traditional uses) &amp; Regional interests (i.e., non-traditional)</li> <li>❖ Decisions made re: Wilderness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ discretion &amp; options limited</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Travel management: figuring out what people want               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ type of activity; opportunities; experiences</li> <li>→ management options</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Valuable from so many perspectives               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Result in multiple conflicts</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ How to make everyone happy</li> <li>❖ Vegetation management: grazing, timber</li> </ul> |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Areas off the plateau               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ different &amp; have serious concerns</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Visual classes/character</li> <li>❖ Enforcement of decisions</li> </ul>   |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Hidden agendas: internal &amp; external</li> </ul>  |

10/3: Glenwood Springs Field Office

General Thoughts RE: Roan Plateau

#### Biggest Challenges (Cont.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ How much area available to lease (e.g., oil, gas)?</li> <li>❖ How much area available for Wildemess Study Area designation?</li> <li>❖ Maintaining/improving wildlife/fisheries habitat</li> </ul> |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Community "Buy-In" to decision               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Partner for implementation?</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ How to let folks know the "decision-space"?</li> </ul>    |

#### Future Challenges

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Population growth &amp; interest in area               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ different values coming in</li> <li>→ expectations</li> <li>→ loss of traditional activities?</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Enforcement of decision: lack of \$ &amp; personnel               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ increasing paperwork</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Cumulative effects: growth, enforcement, visual, travel</li> <li>❖ Paperwork &amp; other administrative encumbrances</li> </ul> |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Politics               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Perceptions following White River</li> <li>→ Pressure to redirect management efforts (i.e., Wilderness or commodity [production])</li> <li>→ Agency politics: WO, State office</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

10/3: Glenwood Springs Field Office

General Thoughts RE: Roan Plateau

### Biggest Challenges (cont)

- ❖ NOSR status: What happens under Wilderness scenarios?  
→ other management options too.
- ❖ Unanticipated changes in management [Future challenge]
- ❖ Effect(s) of neighbor activities
- ❖ Manageability, especially of East Fork unit if designated W or other special status.

### Future Challenges

- ❖ Social Science & people issues become biggest concern & emphasis
- ❖ Future land managers will need different background
- ❖ Environmental education  
→ reaching out to public

10/3: Glenwood Springs Field Office

**What is your vision of the Roan Plateau that you want to pass on to future land managers?**

- ❖ Clear management direction for the area
- ❖ Obtainable management objectives:  
→ enforceable/implementable ⇒ "workable" KISS
- 2 ❖ Manage landscape for long-term health  
2 → "good" range conditions  
1 → naturalness ⇒ management activities remain largely unnoticeable
- ❖ On-going management with clear monitoring indicators  
→ Known criteria & direction  
→ Stability in management direction  
→ Maintenance situation as opposed to continual planning
- 2 ❖ Lowest amount of management necessary  
→ not overly burdensome to continue
- ❖ Not burdensome internally or externally
- 5 ❖ Keep "the top" as it is: its not broke
- 1 ❖ Land managers allowed to manage the land

**What is your vision of the Roan Plateau that you want to pass on to future land managers? (Cont.)**

- ❖ Bottom" (the bottom is broke): motorcycle/ATV
  - "sacrifice" area?
  - what to "pass on" in this area?
  - N.E. & S.E. cliffs "protected" somehow
  - What could be done? Where?
  - Concentrate intense OHV/ATV use?
    - effect on wildlife (winter range) [deer & sheep]
  - Adjacent to private land & easements
  - Role of community: cooperative management
    - Litter, garbage, junk gone
- ❖ In-holdings: acquire/exchange as opportunities arise
- ❖ "Vision": Habitat back to where it was, more pristine
  - (lower area) Restoration
  - Litter, garbage, junk gone
  - People ⇒ non-motorized activities
  - JQS ⇒ paved
  - Concentrate OHV/ATV tracks
  - Improve winter range
- ❖ Turmoil settled/stopped
  - Department of Energy, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Citizens Wilderness Proposal have . . . (pulled BLM in multiple directions)

**What would an "appropriate, community supported public involvement process" look like?**

- ❖ sideboards" of process, law, or regulations are clearly communicated
- ❖ "Buy In" & Acceptance is greater
- ❖ "Reached" community is fairly limited
  - How to reach more? Who do you want to reach?
- ❖ Basic NEPA emphasizing staff knowledge
  - scoping - alternatives - Proposal Draft - comments
- ❖ What do you/BLM want from process/public?
  - Do you want more that what can/will come from NEPA process?
- ❖ People Know they have the opportunity to participate
- ❖ Strategy to deal with misinformation
  - watch the papers & get quick response
  - consolidate information source & "talking points"
- ❖ Clear communication is at CORE

10/3: Glenwood Springs Field Office

**What would an "appropriate, community supported public involvement process" look like?**

- ❖ Information sharing
  - ➔ Newsletter(s): When? Frequency?
- ❖ Something not unreasonably burdensome to staff & public
- ❖ Other agencies: Coherent strategy
- ❖ County/City government: key constituents

#### **Other Questions**

- ❖ Where do people get most of their information?
- What is the best way to keep you (public) up-to-date?



## 10/3: Rifle City Hall

What about the Roan Plateau area is important enough for you to be here tonight?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 | ❖ Livelihood, family recreation<br>→ Wilderness: dead set against it as an option  |
| 2 | ❖ Industrial interest in area, permitting, also recreational interest (biking, rafting, permits)<br>→ concern about Wilderness leading to loss of acres  |
| 2 | ❖ Views for family, visitors, hunting, fishing<br>→ Access, especially possible loss, is a special concern<br>→ Gate posts on upper & lower JQS  |
| 4 | ❖ Hunting & recreation; ranching livelihood of friends<br>→ Multiple-Use: access important to retain<br>→ ATV's: nuisance & damage when improperly used<br>→ Politically driven Wilderness designation process |
| 2 | ❖ Advocate for wilderness & to clear up misinformation<br>→ more people are coming: advocate for BLM to consider all options   |

10/3: Rifle City Hall

Roan Plateau: What role has it played in your picture of "home" in the past & now?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | ❖ It is our life & home. Much of it, especially riparian, has gotten better.  |
| 4 | ❖ Want it as home forever<br>→ brass cap  |
| 1 | ❖ View & recreation are main reason for living here<br>→ key part of quality of life, here including opportunity to make living |
| 1 | ❖ Home also includes work: change in status could lead to problems with responsible development.                                |
|   | ❖ Want grandchildren to be able to see & enjoy the area that I have.  |
|   | ❖ Beautiful area that I identify with strongly  |

**Crafting an “appropriate, community involvement process”: Ideas?**

- ❖ Town meeting hosted by CEC
- ❖ Discussion session hosted by CEC
- ❖ Field trips & site visits
- ❖ History: human history, trends, ecological trends
  - possible futures: population trends
- ❖ Perceptions & fact need to be differentiated
  - Where is Roan Plateau? What is the history?
- ❖ Educational information [Wilderness vs Primitive vs...]
  - effects of Wilderness designation
  - different management options: “fine print”
- ❖ When we get to Alternatives, provide ground-oriented fact sheets oriented towards what people actually do.
- ❖ Stay away from:
  - Pride in authorship,
  - Thinking agency has all the answers
  - Uncomp. Process as an example to avoid
  - Appearance of “behind the scenes” work.
- ❖ Do this:
  - Establish “buy-in” & pride in joint authorship
  - Get people involved early & thoroughly
    - Encourage understanding & compromises
  - Explain the process, pitfalls,
  - Use common sense
  - Good analysis of off-site & cumulative effects

**Future challenges?**

- ❖ Changes in the valley
  - Paying attention to “big picture”
    - how to protect wildlife habitat for hunting & conservation?
- ❖ Role of Wilderness (& other management tools)
- ❖ Using this process to identify what is the community wants for long-term.
- ❖ Accommodating increasing uses without losing traditional ones.
- ❖ Keeping the feeling that this is still my home
- ❖ Weed control
- ❖ Multiple-use concept needs to be maintained
- ❖ Gas well: potential development [oil shale VIP too]
  - controversy
  - Revenue issue?
  - Economic significance
  - Effects

## 10/4: Battlement Mesa (Parachute)

What about the Roan Plateau is important enough for you to be here tonight?

- 5 ❖ Roan Plateau is a lifestyle, not just a livelihood
  - ➔ Grazing is part of livelihood
- 1 ❖ Important energy resources/reserve
- 3 ❖ Grazing on Roan Plateau is important part of livelihood
- ❖ Wildlife resource for Colorado; Roan Plateau is VIP ecologically, economically, & socially
  - ➔ perpetual resource
  - ➔ Threat: develop solely for energy res.
    - Multiple-use important
- 2 ❖ Concerned about wilderness study as another Federal land grab.
  - ➔ Need to focus on Multiple-use
    - Renewable
- ❖ Roan Plateau is an incredible jewel: must keep it from declining in social aesthetic values
  - ➔ current at risk at ecological level

10/4: Battlement Mesa (Parachute)

When you think about "Home", what role would you like Roan Plateau to play in the future? For your kids? Community?

- ❖ Roan Plateau has a main role to play in securing economy/economic values & safe to go & get away from everything
  - ➔ recreation, energy, grazing
  - ➔ Quiet, remoteness
  - ➔ Don't compromise these qualities
- 2 ❖ Everyone coexists with Multiple-use and no fighting: getting away from "turf battles"
  - ➔ security for kid's future economically
  - ➔ National economic security also important
- ❖ Good place for kids to go & get away
- 2 ❖ Roan Plateau should still be available as "home" for kids
  - ➔ rural, "true west"
  - ➔ special place for local residents
- 3 ❖ Large block of land encompassing a whole ecosystem process/range: Very rare.
  - ➔ Land health is key & we need to have this in the future too.
    - forage resource
    - sustainable

10/4: Battlement Mesa (Parachute)

**What about Roan Plateau today is most important to have in the future?  
What is most important to avoid changing?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Intact ecosystem: currently functioning, although some risk.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Avoid increased fragmentation of habitat.</li><li>○ Roads are primary concern</li><li>➔ Water cycle is interesting &amp; integral</li><li>➔ riparian areas that support wildlife</li><li>➔ Vegetation Layer: dependent upon good management</li><li>➔ Soil Resource: dependent upon good management</li><li>➔ Wildlife/Biological: the living part/layer</li></ul></li></ul> |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Access to energy resource<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ important to retain for future options</li><li>➔ Remember to focus on national importance</li></ul></li></ul>   |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Current biological resources remain<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ look for technological advances to reduce/eliminate risks from energy resource recovery.</li></ul></li><li>❖ Continuity of management</li></ul>   |

10/4: Battlement Mesa (Parachute)

**What would you like to see changed on Roan Plateau? What "red flags" do you see?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Riparian areas in most of Roan Plateau are "at risk"<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ banks, vegetation, weeds, little perennial regrowth</li><li>➔ increase "health"</li></ul></li><li>❖ BLM management: was "smooth"; now "breaking down"<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ "not on same page"</li><li>➔ too much conflict</li><li>➔ out of hands of land managers &amp; in hands of bureaucrats.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Bureaucratic:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ takes too long for permits, SEIS's, EA's</li></ul></li><li>❖ Subjectiveness of studies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ conflicting studies;</li></ul></li></ul>  |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ No more new roads<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ management of OHV/ATV's is key.</li></ul></li></ul>   |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Red flag is not letting natural processes, including fire, proceed.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ deal with decadent &amp; late-seral vegetation.</li></ul></li></ul>   |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ No oil &amp; gas lease or surface occupancy in areas as identified in CNHP recomm.: Areas of biological importance shouldn't be disturbed.</li></ul>   |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Discontinuity of management.</li></ul>   |

10/4: Battlement Mesa (Parachute)

**Public involvement suggestions & ideas**

3

- ❖ Large forum: can be very frustrating
  - respective comments
  - still important
    - try for informational meetings then step down to smaller working groups.
- ❖ Important reach out beyond local area too
  - access DOW (Department of Wildlife) database for hunters in Unit 32
  - Written comments important too
    - remember that not everyone is comfortable in public forums
- ❖ BLM needs to research past NOSR (Naval Oil Shale Reserve) history
  - importance of historical perspective
  - need to share the information as part of planning effort
  - Emphasis what's changed/improved
- ❖ Reach back out to those who didn't respond to these meetings
  - Ask them why

## 10/5: Rifle City Hall

What about the Roan Plateau is important enough for you to be here tonight?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Concerned about anything other than cliffs being designated as Wilderness</li> </ul>   |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Concerned about Natural Gas reserve being lost to protection               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ made inaccessible by laws</li> <li>○ industry &amp; multiple-use</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Concerned about recreational activities &amp; possible loss of access for anyone.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ tourism as principle economic focus.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Concerned about recreation &amp; economic value of area, particularly biking, oil, gas               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ important to link economic development to community support: volunteer activities, cooperative maintenance, etc</li> <li>○ wants to see BLM "coaching" &amp; guiding businesses willing to help do maintenance &amp; management projects</li> <li>○ "get people involved in taking care of what's theirs"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

10/5: Rifle City Hall

What "opportunities" provided by Roan Plateau are most important to retain & keep from being lost?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Many good roads for riding on motorbike &amp; bikes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ would hate to see any closed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ allow you to see the area</li> </ul>  |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ its fun &amp; challenging (rough is good sometimes)</li> <li>○ access for hunting &amp; grazing operations</li> </ul>   |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Natural resources: oil, shale, timber, water, natural gas, grazing forage               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ access for economic extraction &amp; activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Recreation activities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ hiking, birding, camping, biking, OHV/ATV, fishing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

What are the "opportunities" dependent on? What about the Roan Plateau needs to be the focus of management?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ❖ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads: need to be maintained &amp; kept open               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ control erosion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| ❖ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOT seeing carcasses, trash, litter</li> </ul>  |
| ❖ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOT having washed out roads</li> </ul>  |
| ❖ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate maintenance efforts on roads &amp; trails               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Maintain WaterBar's &amp; drainages</li> <li>➔ Dips, not culverts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| ❖ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing timber/forests to avoid catastrophic fire in future               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ potential loss of habitat</li> <li>➔ loss of aesthetics</li> <li>○ flowers, variety of forest, color of rockface</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

**If some major change occurred to Roan Plateau but the "infrastructure" & "activities" were still possible, what would have to change?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ "All fire" is not catastrophic                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ some fire is "good"                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ can help some vegetation to thrive after</li> <li>○ improves wildlife/grazing forage</li> <li>○ keeps bears from moving into town</li> <li>○ can kill some of the noxious weeds</li> <li>○ our tax \$ goes to fighting them</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Scenic</li> <li>❖ Rustic roads and trails                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ don't control dust</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**What improvements might be made to "infrastructure" of roads & road systems?**

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ More loop opportunities in locations where short connections are possible.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ more enjoyable ride</li> <li>➔ less "dense" recreation (don't have to double back)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|

**Public involvement suggestions**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use web pages</li> <li>❖ Avoid weekly/bi-weekly meetings                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ keep it to about monthly if major events/decisions occurring, less when its slower</li> <li>○ frequency need to depend on what's happening</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ If rumors are flying &amp; there's no visible BLM response, that's a problem.</li> <li>❖ Work with local organizational representatives &amp; businesses to help spread the word                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ about what's happening look for good questions &amp; ideas &amp; share ideas &amp; information</li> <li>➔ let the representatives help keep the community informed &amp; involved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Need enough interactions between different parts of the community to come to a consensus or compromise about what needs to be done.</li> <li>❖ Focus on the issues: might want to have meetings on particular topics or areas.</li> </ul>   |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Start by presenting what is known, not what is proposed.</li> </ul>   |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Don't lie; tell the truth                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ don't mislead or misrepresent</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

## 10/6: Rifle Firehall

What about the Roan Plateau is important enough for you to be here tonight?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Investment in permit area &amp; want to be able to continue improving permit lands.</li> <li>❖ Learned to walk up there &amp; runs sheep up on Roan Plateau</li> <li>❖ long family history on Roan Plateau               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ some of family's sheep were run off cliffs</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Runs cattle &amp; wants to be able to continue improvements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ concerned about possible locking up of public lands in future</li> <li>→ concerned about keeping lands in multiple-use</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Paleontological resource is rich for vertebrate &amp; invertebrate               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ still working on whether science only should guide or public access should guide.</li> <li>→ multiple-use is important</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Wants to retain motorized access to roads &amp; not see Wilderness designation in area already full of roads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ enjoys fishing</li> <li>→ owns clothing stores &amp; sees strong economic connection between Roan Plateau &amp; hunting</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Natural gas reserves are world-class &amp; development potential needs to be maintained.</li> <li>❖ Roan Plateau is a great backdrop &amp; [would like to see all on horses (joke)]</li> <li>❖ Wants to be able to keep improving the area, especially the water.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ cattle grazing operation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

What characteristics of Roan Plateau are most important to avoid changing? Are most important to maintain for your kids, etc.?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Multiple-use management strategy/approach               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ need to work with better maps showing all the activities &amp; infrastructure [fences, gas wells, etc.]</li> <li>○ shows importance of using all the resources together</li> <li>○ can have problems at times, but mostly worked out on own.</li> <li>○ cultural change as new people come in                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● new residents ⇒ most problems: mostly because of background &amp; experiences not being with cattle or oil fuels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ flexibility to work with individuals</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Value of the ground &amp; what's under it is key.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ oil/gas:</li> <li>→ Cattle forage ⇒ crowding can lead to poor weight gain.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Ecological components &amp; system: rare ones &amp; endangered ones</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

2



**What characteristics of Roan Plateau are most important to avoid changing? Are most important to maintain for your kids, etc.?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|   | ❖ Water quality has improved  |
|   | ❖ Control of sagebrush  |
|   | ❖ weed control has gotten better  |
|   | ❖ erosion control has gotten better   |
| 1 | ❖ vegetation composition  |
|   | ❖ Opportunities to fish   |
| 9 | ❖ Remoteness & lack of crowding<br>→ keep a secret<br>→ limited access is important to retain |
| 1 | ❖ Rough roads are an asset  |
|   | ❖ Paleontological resource & archeological resource<br>→ Wikeups                              |

**What about Roan Plateau is worth trying to change? Are there any problems that you see?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 | ❖ Expansion of road system: un-designated roads<br>→ leads to erosion<br>→ less remoteness<br>→ disturbance of cattle<br>→ spread of weeds |
| 8 | ❖ Constant change in BLM managers/management<br>→ judgement based on low familiarity<br>→ don't know the areas they decide about           |

**Suggestions for Public Involvement**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 | ❖ Be sure to educate people about the resources so more people have a better understanding.                  |
| 3 | ❖ Relying only on the big public meetings is counterproductive.<br>→ need to compartmentalize the discussion |
|   | ❖ Give people a chance to hear from one another first hand.  |
| 3 | ❖ Produce a group opinion/product.   |
| 2 | ❖ Show commitment to making a difference<br>→ BLM needs to show this most.                                   |
| 2 | ❖ Use small meetings where possible  |
|   | ❖ Keep process open  |
|   | ❖ Aim towards ownership.<br>→ stewardship towards ground & towards decision                                  |